



For immediate release
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Rapid Response Team activated to aid in additional TWA layoffs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated again to help additional workers that were displaced by layoffs today at the Trans World Airlines (TWA) Engine Overhaul Base in Kansas City.

TWA has announced that another approximately 50 employees were laid off as a result of the impacts of the September 11 terrorist acts on the nation's airline industry. The rapid response team held a meeting earlier this week with 139 Kansas City maintenance overhaul base employees who were laid off October 5.

"State and local agencies stand ready to respond to the needs of Missourians that have been and may be affected by these extremely unfortunate circumstances," said Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Joseph L. Driskill. "We still don't know what the full impact of these terrorist acts will be on the state's economy, but we are prepared to help Missouri workers who are dislocated as a result of airline-industry layoffs as they occur."

The Rapid Response Team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security, the University of Missouri Project Refocus and the Full Employment Council. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist TWA employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

The Rapid Response Team and Kansas City-area Missouri Career Centers will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

The Full Employment Council and DWD are working with the company to ensure that workers have extended access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers at 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 15, at International Association Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 1650 at 3050 Vivion Road in Riverside to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security is prepared to quickly process unemployment claims filed by individual workers. Unemployed workers can file unemployment claims using the Internet at www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us at any time of the day. Individuals may file claims by telephone during working hours at 816-889-3101 or 1-800-320-2519 if outside the Kansas City area.

Employers interested in hiring TWA workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can **call DWD at (800) 877-8698 or Clyde McQueen or Steve Dempsey at the Full Employment Council at (816) 471-2330.**

